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EXCISE

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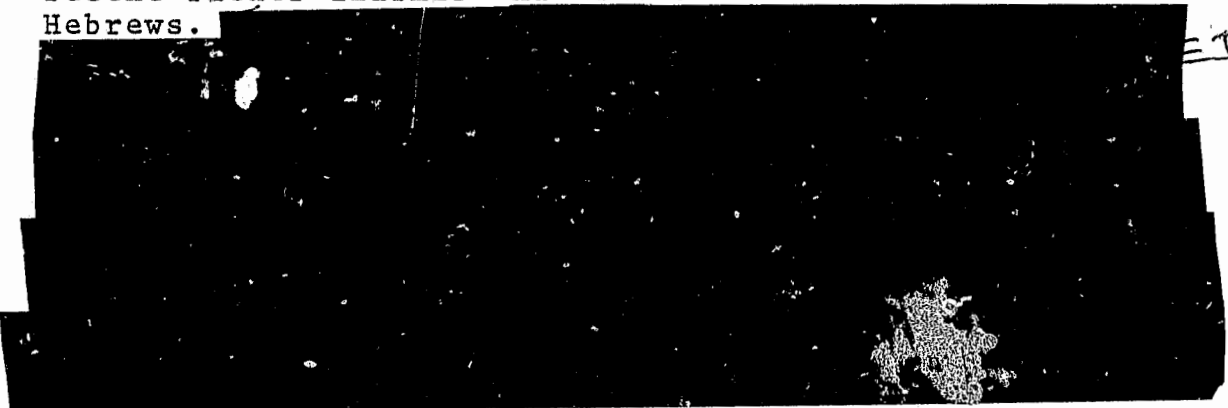
March 19, 1980

Mr. David Korn
Director, NEA/IAI
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY JL DATE 9/17/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Dear David:

Enclosed for your information is a translation of a recent rather alarmist Ma'ariv article on the Black Hebrews.



After numerous attempts to contact MK David Glass, Randall Elliott was finally able to have a discussion with him concerning the status of the Black Hebrew community and his committee's long awaited report.



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Sincerely,

William A. Brown
Deputy Chief of Mission

Enclosure:
Ma'ariv article

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February 29, 1980

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P5-7-3

REVELATION

By Yair Kotler

Member of Knesset David Glass: A COOK'S SPOON*ASPIRING TO NO.2 STATUS IN THE RELIGIOUS PARTY

SETS HIS EYES TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE BUT NOT "IN THE COMING YEARS"
SUPPORTS THE BLACK HEBREW SETTLEMENT IN THE ARAVA, EVEN AFTER HE WAS
TOLD IN THE U.S.A. THAT "THOSE ARE DANGEROUS PEOPLE, MORE DANGEROUS THAN
THE GUIANA SECT AND ARE CAPABLE OF MASS SUICIDE"

Member of Knesset Glass is busy these days with a complicated subject: the Black Hebrews. In the next few days, he will present the conclusions and recommendations of the committee examining the status of the sect called Black Hebrews, of which he is the head. The leaders of the sect will most probably rejoice at the recommendation that a settlement be established for them in the Arava. David Glas knows that "they are simply not Jews". He stated in an interview that "most of them reached Israel fraudulently and are here illegally".

If this is the case, then why is M.K.Glas recommending that they remain in Israel?

THE "SECRET" OF THE BLACK HEBREWS

I shall reveal a secret: While in the U.S.A. a few weeks ago, he conversed with blacks who were among Black Hebrew leaders and had left the organization. Those reported to him and also to a representative from the Israeli Embassy in Washington, that if they are deported from Israel, they are capable of taking extreme measures, even of mass suicide", taking the model of the members of the "People's Temple" whose spiritual leader Jim Jones ordered the terrible mass suicide of 910 of his followers in the town of Johnstown in Guiana in November 1978.

Glass: "I am not ready to take on my conscience such a possibility... this is the impression I had from talks in the U.S.A. with members of the sect who left..."

Member of Knesset Glass asserts that only 10% of the members of the sect in Israel have a criminal past. There are about 1500 members in Israel. There are about 5000 in the U.S.A. Their leader in Dimona, Ben-Ami Carter is capable of ordering a mass suicide in the pattern of Guiana". His foes, who left the sect, warned Member of Knesset Glas "They aspire to establish a state within the state... they want to achieve sovereignty.. they are more dangerous than Jim Jones' sect..

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On June 31, 1978, when they feared for their future, their "Foreign Minister" in Dimona, Shalek Ben-Yehuda sent a letter to Idi Ameen, President of Uganda, requesting aid in their struggle against Israel. Recently, the "International Ambassador" of the sect, Azriel Ben-Israel, stressed the sect's desire to reach a "positive solution" of its increasing problems in Israel.

Member of Knesset Glas has "a dim feeling", after talks with the Black Hebrew. He promises that "criminal elements will be expelled from Israel" and those allowed to remain will go through exhaustive investigation. Now "no one knows who is who". He, as a liberal legislator, does not intend, as the Religious Party Mayor of Dimona, to "drown them in the sea". Nevertheless, he knows that "their aim is to bring thousands to Israel" but he promises that this program will not be implemented because it is "impractical". He recommends that they be settled in one village but it is not known whether they could be grouped in four locations where they now live and have struck roots: Dimona, Arad, Mitzpe Ramon and Kfar Shiloah (Silwan).